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Signed: *Ray Padilla*

Attorney Docket No. 29914.703.201

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
 )  
 Inventor(s): David STINSON et al. )  
 )  
 Application No.: 10/615,417 )  
 )  
 Filed: July 8, 2003 )  
 )  
 Title: Prostheses, tools and methods for )  
 replacement of natural facet joints with )  
 artificial facet joint surfaces )  
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**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please provide the current status on the above-identified patent application. The application was filed on July 8, 2003 and the last action our records reflect is a Notice of Recordation of Assignment Document which was mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and received on June 21, 2004.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 23-2415. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,  
 WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

Date: 12/22/2004

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